

with two entire chapters on the cost-effectiveness of prevention and cost-effectiveness of diagnosis.

Section 3 covers special problems including thrombophilia, heparin induced thrombocytopaenia and new anti-thrombotic drugs and thrombolytic agents. The chapter on thrombophilia is disappointingly superficial, consisting of only seven pages with no reference to protocols for performing thrombophilia screens especially in patients who may have developed a thrombotic condition and are on treatment with Heparin or Warfarin. Neither is there any reference to the genetics and treatment of these conditions, especially in patients who require surgery. The Chapter on Heparin induced thrombocytopaenia contains no protocols for the diagnosis and treatment of the condition.

In summary, this book provides an overview of arterial and venous thromboembolism and should be a useful companion to "Disorders of Haemostasis". However, it is expensive and Vascular Surgeons would probably be better to invest in more specific and detailed texts on venous thrombo-embolism and peripheral arterial thrombolysis.

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### **Arterial Aneurysms - Diagnosis and Management**

M. Horrocks, Ed.

Butterworth Heinemann, 1995.

246 pages, price £55.

This is an excellent book covering all aspects of the diagnosis and management of arterial aneurysms. The contributors are almost exclusively British vascular surgeons and hence arch and ascending aortic aneurysms are not covered as these are dealt with by Cardiothoracic surgeons in the U.K. The emphasis is on abdominal aortic aneurysms but useful chapters are devoted to carotid, visceral and peripheral aneurysms. The text and pertinent illustrations are clear and well laid out and the information is presented in a concise and authoritative manner.

Initial chapters deal with aetiology and prevalence, diagnostic techniques and screening. Then follows a particularly helpful section on preoperative assessment and anaesthetic aspects. Operative techniques for dealing with abdominal and thoracoabdominal aneurysms are well covered. Management of complications are discussed in detail with specific chapters on aortoenteric fistulae, infected aneurysms and false/anastomotic aneurysms. There are valuable chapters

on inflammatory aneurysms, blood management techniques and connective tissue disorders. The chapters are well integrated with no repetition and each is extensively referenced.

I have few criticisms of this book. The chapter on endovascular techniques is inevitably out of date but the principles and potential problems are discussed. The section on popliteal aneurysms could have explored the controversies surrounding the management of asymptomatic aneurysms in more depth.

In summary, this is a concise but comprehensive review of the diagnosis and management of arterial aneurysms. The book soon bestows the reader with useful information and practical guidance. It is extremely good value for money and as such should find its way on to the shelves of many consultant surgeons and vascular trainees who will enjoy reading it and refer to it time and again.

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### **Clinical Tests of Respiratory Function. 2nd Edn.**

G.J. Gibson, Ed.

Chapman & Hall Medical, 1996. 381 pages.

This excellent reference text for those ordering and interpreting Lung Function tests, should not simply be for the Physician. Surgeons, Anaesthetists, and Intensivists, will find it useful. Just as we measure 4 or 5 parameters when we test the Liver or Kidneys, for example, so we usually need to measure more than one parameter of Lung Function. To know the state of such a major organ pre-operatively can only be wise, and many would now say, mandatory. This book, in a very readable and brief manner covers the main methods of testing lung function. It has many simple diagrams, and apart from the expected basic physiology, which may take many of us back to our Medical School days, it has useful chapters on Blood Gases, Acid-Base balance, and artificial Ventilation.

There are short chapters on exercise testing, investigation of sleep disorders; and the problems of Transplantation in relation to lung function are covered. Problems of perfusion, including pulmonary embolism are dealt with. In the I.T.U. setting, there is information about the problems of ARDS, and of patients with chest deformity, together with the uses of CPAP and PEEP. The whole is provided with a wealth of references, and a good index. The book is highly recommended to any surgical department dealing with the whole patient.

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